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Target MPAI Community

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1 Introduction

Moving Picture, Audio and Data Coding by Artificial Intelligence (MPAI) is an international non-profit organisation with the mission of developing standards for Artificial Intelligence (AI)-enabled data coding and for technologies that facilitate integration of data coding components into ICT systems [1]. The MPAI Statutes also assign to MPAI the task to facilitate the creation of patent pools that rely on clear IPR licensing frameworks based on Framework Licences [2].

MPAI has developed several Technical Specifications relevant to its mission: execution environment of multi-component AI applications, context-based audio enhancements, multimodal human-machine conversation, company performance prediction, neural network watermarking, and governance of the MPAI ecosystem. Four Technical Specifications have been adopted by IEEE without modification and one more is in the pipeline.

MPAI is engaged in several other projects on AI health, connected autonomous vehicles, MPAI metaverse model, and XR Venues. When the functional requirements of a project are consolidated, MPAI principal members adopt a “Framework Licence” that sets some important elements of the future licence for the standard essential patents and MPAI issues a Call for Technologies, a document inviting the submission of contributions in response to the Call for Technologies by parties who accept to licence their technologies according to the Framework Licence, if their technologies are accepted to be part of the target Technical Specification.

This document is a Call for Technologies (CfT) to acquire technologies for the planned Technical Specification: Object and Scene Description (MPAI-OSD) (in the following “Standard”). Three documents are attached to this Call for Technologies:

1. Use Cases and Functional Requirements: Object and Scene Description (MPAI-OSD) [3].
2. Framework Licence: Object and Scene Description (MPAI-OSD) [4].
3. Template for Responses: Object and Scene Description (MPAI-OSD) [5]

2 Scope of the Object and Scene Description CfT

This Call for Technologies: Object and Scene Description (MPAI-OSD) (in the following “Call”) invites any party wishing to contribute to the development of the planned Standard to submit a response. If they own technologies relevant to this Call, they are required to eventually license their technologies according to Framework Licence: Object and Scene Description (MPAI-OSD) [4] if the technologies are selected by MPAI for possible modification and inclusion in the planned Standard.

Any respondent who is not an MPAI member and wishes to participate in the development of the said Technical Specification shall join MPAI. If they own accepted technologies and do not join MPAI, they lose the opportunity to have their technologies included in the planned Standard.

The planned Standard will be developed using technologies that comply with the following mandatory requirements:

1. Be part of responses to this Call submitted by parties accepting Framework Licence: Object and Scene Description (MPAI-OSD) [4] and satisfy Use Cases and Functional Requirements: Object and Scene Description (MPAI-OSD) [3].
2. Be based on technologies specified in published MPAI standards, where relevant, desirable, and feasible [1].

Therefore, the goal of this Call is to elicit responses in line with the Use Cases and Functional Requirements of [3] proposing technologies that submitters are willing to license according to the Framework Licence [4].

However, respondents are welcome to additionally do one or more of the following:

1. Make comments on any technical element of [3].
2. Make motivated proposals of changes or proposal of technologies not included in [3] if they:
 - 2.1. Are in line with the scope of Use Cases and Functional Requirements: Object and Scene Description (MPAI-OSD) [3].
 - 2.2. Satisfy the Framework Licence: Object and Scene Description (MPAI-OSD) [4].

At this stage, MPAI membership is not a prerequisite for responding to this Call. However, proponents should be aware that, if their proposal or part thereof is accepted for inclusion in the planned Standard, they will be requested to immediately join MPAI, or lose the opportunity to have their accepted technologies included in the standard.

MPAI will select the most suitable technologies based on their technical merits. However, MPAI is not obligated, by virtue of this Call, to select a particular technology or to select any of the proposed technologies if those submitted are found inadequate.

Note that in the future, MPAI may decide to further extend the planned Standard as a part or an extension of it.

3 How to submit a response

Those planning to respond to this Call are:

1. Advised that the Call will be presented at two online events on 2023/09/08.
2. Requested to communicate their intention to respond to this Call with an initial version of the form of Annex A to the MPAI secretariat (secretariat@mpai.community) by 2023/09/15. Submission of a duly filled out Annex A helps MPAI to properly plan for the revision of submissions. This, however, is not a requirement and the submission of a respondent to this Call who did not submit Annex A will still be accepted.
3. Encouraged to regularly visit the [Call for Technologies](#) webpage where any relevant additional information will be posted.
4. Required to deliver their submissions to the MPAI secretariat (secretariat@mpai.community) by 2023/10/20 T23:59 UTC. The secretariat will acknowledge receipt of the submission via email.
5. Required to attend the review of submissions communicated to submitters. For details on how non MPAI members who have made a submission can attend the said review sessions should contact the [MPAI Secretariat](#).

Responses to this Call may/shall include:

Table 1 – Optional and mandatory elements of a response

Item	Status
Detailed documentation describing the proposed technologies	mandatory
The final version of Annex A.	mandatory
The text of Annex B duly filled out with the table indicating to which Functional Requirements the response applies.	mandatory
Comments on the completeness and appropriateness of the Use Cases and Functional Requirements: Object and Scene Description (MPAI-OSD) and any motivated suggestion to amend and/or extend those Requirements.	optional
A preliminary demonstration, with a detailed document describing it.	optional
Any other additional relevant information that may help evaluate the submission, such as additional use cases.	optional
The text of Annex E.	mandatory

Respondents are invited to take advantage of the check list of Annex C before filling out Annex A and submitting their response.

Respondents are mandatorily requested to present their submission at a teleconference meeting to be properly announced to submitters by the MPAI Secretariat. If no presenter of a submission will be in attendance to that meeting, the submission will be discarded.

Further information on MPAI can be obtained from the [MPAI website](#).

4 Evaluation Criteria and Procedure

Proposals will be assessed using the following process:

1. Evaluation panel is created from:

1. MPAI members in attendance.
2. Non-MPAI members who are respondents.
3. Non respondents/non MPAI member experts invited in a consulting capacity.
2. No one from 1.1.-1.2. is denied membership in the Evaluation panel.
3. Respondents present their proposals.
4. Evaluation Panel members ask questions.
5. If required, subjective and/or objective tests are carried out with the following process:
 1. The required tests are defined.
 2. The required tests are carried out.
 3. A report is produced.
6. If required, at least 2 reviewers are appointed to review and report about specific points in a proposal.
7. Evaluation panel members fill out Annex B for each proposal.
8. Respondents respond to evaluations.
9. Proposal evaluation report is produced.

5 Expected timeline

Timeline of the CfT, deadlines and response evaluation:

Table 2 – Dates and deadlines

Step	Date	Time
Call for Technologies: Object and Scene Description (MPAI-OSD)	2023/07/23	17:00 UTC
Online presentations of the Call	2023/09/07	09:00 UTC 16:00 UTC
Notification of intention to submit proposal	2023/08/31	23.59 UTC
Submission deadline	2023//09/20	23.59 UTC

6 References

1. MPAI Standards Resources; <https://mpai.community/standards/resources/>.
2. MPAI Patent Policy; <https://mpai.community/about/the-mpai-patent-policy/>.
3. MPAI; Use Cases and Functional Requirements: Object and Scene Description (MPAI-OSD); N1360; <https://mpai.community/standards/mpai-osd/use-cases-and-functional-requirements/>
4. MPAI; Framework Licence: Object and Scene Description (MPAI-OSD); N1361; <https://mpai.community/standards/mpai-osd/framework-licence/>
5. MPAI; Template for Responses: Object and Scene Description (MPAI-OSD); N1362; <https://mpai.community/standards/mpai-osd/template-for-responses/>

Annex A: Information Form

This information form is to be filled in by a Respondent to this Call for Technologies: Object and Scene Description (MPAI-OSD).

1. Title of the proposal.
2. Organisation: company name, position, e-mail of contact person.
3. What are the main functionalities of your proposal?
4. Does your proposal provide or describe a formal specification and APIs?
5. Will you provide a demonstration to show how your proposal meets the evaluation criteria?

Annex B: Evaluation Sheet

NB: This evaluation sheet will be filled out by Evaluation Team members.

Proposal title:

Main functionalities:

Response summary: (a few lines)

Comments on relevance to the CFT:

Comments on possible MPAI-AIH profiles¹

Evaluation table:

Table 3 – Assessment of submission features

Note 1 *Table 4* gives the semantics of submission features.

Note 2 Evaluation Elements indicate the elements used by the evaluator in assessing the submission.

Note 3 Final Assessment indicates the ultimate assessment based on the Evaluation Elements.

Submission features	Evaluation Elements	Final Assessment
Completeness of description		
Understandability		
Extensibility		
Use of standard technology		
Efficiency		
Test cases		
Maturity of reference implementation		
Relative complexity		

Content of the criteria table cells:

Evaluation facts should mention:

- ✓ Not supported / partially supported / fully supported.
- ✓ What supports these facts: submission/presentation/demo.
- ✓ The summary of the facts themselves, e.g., very good in one way, but weak in another.

Final assessment should mention:

¹ Profile of a standard is a particular subset of the technologies that are used in a standard and, where applicable, the classes, subsets, options and parameters relevant for the subset.

- ✓ Possibilities to improve or add to the proposal, e.g., any missing or weak features.
- ✓ How sure the evaluators are, i.e., evidence shown, very likely, very hard to tell, etc.
- ✓ Global evaluation (Not Applicable/ --/ - / + / ++)

New Use Cases/Requirements Identified:

(Please describe)

Evaluation summary:

- **Main strong points, qualitatively:**
- **Main weak points, qualitatively:**
- **Overall evaluation: (0/1/2/3/4/5)**
 - 0: could not be evaluated
 - 1: proposal is not relevant.
 - 2: proposal is relevant but requires significant more work.
 - 3: proposal is relevant, but with a few changes.
 - 4: proposal has some very good points, so it is a good candidate for standard.
 - 5: proposal is superior in its category, very strongly recommended for inclusion in standard.

Additional remarks: (points of importance not covered above.)

The submission features in *Table 3* are explained in the following *Table 4*.

Table 4 – Explanation of submission features

Submission features	Criteria
Completeness of description	Evaluators should: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Compare the list of requirements (Annex C of this CfT) with the submission. 2. Check if respondents have described in sufficient detail how the requirements are supported by the proposal. Note: Submissions will be judged for the merit of what is proposed. A submission on a single technology that is excellent may be considered instead of a submission that is complete but has a less performing technology.
Understandability	Evaluators should identify items that are demonstrably unclear (inconsistencies, sentences with dubious meaning etc.)
Extensibility	Evaluators should check if respondent has proposed extensions to the Use Case. Note: Extensibility is the capability of the proposed solution to support use cases that are not supported by current requirements.
Use of standard Technology	Evaluators should check if new technologies are proposed where widely adopted technologies exist. If this is the case, the merit of the new technology shall be proved.
Efficiency	Evaluators should assess power consumption, computational speed, computational complexity.
Test cases	Evaluators should report whether a proposal contains suggestions for testing the technologies proposed.

Maturity of reference implementation	<p>Evaluators should assess the maturity of the proposal.</p> <p>Note1: Maturity is measured by the completeness, i.e., having all the necessary information and appropriate parts of the HW/SW implementation of the submission disclosed.</p> <p>Note2: If there are parts of the implementation that are not disclosed but demonstrated, they will be considered if and only if such components are replicable.</p>
Relative complexity	Evaluators should identify issues that would make it difficult to implement the proposal compared to the state of the art.
Support of new MPAI-AIH use cases	Evaluators should check whether the technologies proposed can demonstrably be used in other significantly different use cases.

Annex C: Check list of data formats proposed by a respondent

Table 5 is a suggested check list to inform MPAI about the data formats contained in a response.

Table 5 – List of data formats in Use Cases and Functional Requirements: MPAI-AIH [3]

Note: The numbers in the first column refer to the section numbers of [3].

Table 6 - Table of response areas

#	MPAI-AIH requirements areas	Response
6.1	Virtual Environment	Y/N
6.2	Coordinates, Angles, and Objects	Y/N
6.3	Spatial Attitude and Point of View	Y/N
6.4	Audio Scene Descriptors	Y/N
6.5	Visual Scene Descriptors	Y/N
6.6	Audio-Visual Scene Description	Y/N
6.7	Physical Object Identifier	Y/N

Respondent should in any case review the equivalent list in the table of contents of [3].

Annex D: Technologies that may require specific testing

Table 7 will be compiled based on the responses received.

Table 7 – Functional Requirements that may require specific testing

Section	Technology	Nature of Test

Annex E: Mandatory text in responses

A response to this Call for Technologies shall mandatorily include the following text

<Company/Member> submits this technical document in response to Call for Technologies: Object and Scene Description (MPAI-OSD) (N1359).

<Company/Member> explicitly agrees to the steps of the MPAI standards development process defined in Annex 1 to the [MPAI Statutes](#) (N421), in particular <Company/Member> declares that <Company/Member> or its successors will make available the terms of the Licence related to its Essential Patents according to the Framework Licence: Object and Scene Description (MPAI-OSD) (N1361), alone or jointly with other IPR holders after the approval of the planned Technical Specification: Object and Scene Description (MPAI-OSD) by the General Assembly and in no event after commercial implementations of the Standard become available on the market.

In case the respondent is a non-MPAI member, the submission shall mandatorily include the following text:

If (a part of) this submission is identified for inclusion in a specification, <Company> understands that <Company> will be requested to immediately join MPAI and that, if <Company> elects not to join MPAI, this submission will be discarded.

Subsequent technical contribution shall mandatorily include this text

<Member> submits this document to MPAI as a contribution to the development of the planned the Technical Specification: Object and Scene Description (MPAI-OSD).

<Member> explicitly agrees to the steps of the MPAI standards development process defined in Annex 1 to the [MPAI Statutes](#) (N421), in particular <Company> declares that <Company> or its successors will make available the terms of the Licence related to its Essential Patents according to the Framework Licence: Object and Scene Description (MPAI-OSD) (N1361), alone or jointly with other IPR holders after the approval of the Technical Specification: Object and Scene Description (MPAI-OSD) by the General Assembly and in no event after commercial implementations of the Technical Specification: Object and Scene Description (MPAI-OSD) become available on the market.